

### **Mission Statement**

"The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness."

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

#### **TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL**

**7:00 P.M.**

**February 2, 2016**

**Rm. 217**

### **Minutes**

**Attendance:** Members— Krishna Adhikari, Charles Andrew, Judy Borden (Chair), Charles Cleary, Helga Gordon, Judy Wyman Kelly (Secretary), Karyl Shaughnessy, and Barry Walters. Former Town Liaison—Marcia Lewis. Nine Conard students (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders).

1. **Minutes:** It was moved (Chuck A) and seconded (Chuck C) that the minutes from the 11.10.15 meeting be approved with no changes. The vote passed unanimously.
2. **Updates:**
  - a. **International Human Rights Day, Dec. 10**—great participation throughout the school district in all the schools. Some Commission members attended events at Hall. Students (at this meeting) spoke about events at Conard.
  - b. **MLK day, Jan. 18**—great success once again. Both student speakers were excellent. Commission had two tables (at front and side entrances) with information about the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence and Meatless Mondays.
  - c. **One Book One Town (#1Book1TownWH)**—many events are scheduled.
  - d. Check the town website for a listing:  
([https://www.westhartfordct.gov/things\\_to\\_do/one\\_book\\_one\\_town/default.asp](https://www.westhartfordct.gov/things_to_do/one_book_one_town/default.asp))  
Commission agreed to co-sponsor a community conversation on the book (*Outcasts United*) with the Noah Webster House on Tuesday evening, March 29.
2. **Kingian Nonviolence training program, March 18-19**—this two-day training is available free of charge for West Hartford residents (with donations accepted!). Judy K and Margaret L will be participating. If anyone else is interested, please contact Judy K.

**3. WH Multiculturalism initiative**—Marcia L. described some key ongoing multicultural initiatives in West Hartford that need leadership going forward. A needs assessment was done several years ago and several themes emerged, including, creating a Welcome brochure to help immigrants and refugees navigate the systems in WH and establishing a multilingual advisory board.

**4. Ongoing:**

- a. **Charter of Compassion/City of Compassion**—Chuck C clarified that Danbury is not a City of Compassion (CC) but Western CT State University (located in Danbury) is. Central CT State University is also a CC and Tunxis Community College is looking into it. Chuck A reported on his talks with people in the town of Milford, also a CC, about the process. They suggested that the Commission speak with WH Mayor and Town Council to identify important issues in WH that could be included in a CC charter. The Commission decided they would identify issues via email before the next meeting.
- b. **Initiative to study CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project and monitor West Hartford's data**—Judy B will set up date for subcommittee meeting with Margaret L, Karyl S. and Barry W. Judy B will also invite Police Chief Gove to participate.
- c. **Mission Statement**—Given that any changes to the mission statement need to be approved by Town Council and that the statement was just recently changed to align with state laws on human rights, the Commission decided to keep the mission statement as is.

**5. Next meeting**--Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 7 pm, rm. 217.

**6. Meeting adjourned at 8:20**

*Minutes submitted by Judy Wyman Kelly*